

Utah State Law Library Technology Plan 2005-2007

I. Utah State Law Library

The Utah State Law Library provides the legal resources necessary to meet the information needs of the judiciary, executive and legislative branches of government, Utah attorneys, and the general public.

Technology plays a vital role in helping us serve our patrons. The law library's web pages disseminate information about our services and public computer terminals allow on-site researchers to make use of the electronic resources we provide for them, including GPO Access, Pioneer, Utah Law on Disk, and Westlaw. We will start cataloging our collection soon and will make that catalog available on the web. People from all corners of the state will be able to search our catalog and make use of our resources.

II. Existing Technology and Services

Public Computers:

The law library has four aging public computers. Three of them run Windows 95, one runs Windows 98. They do not have CD drives.

All public computers provide access to the internet, Westlaw and Utah Law on Disk, a CD-ROM product mounted on the court's server. Everybody's Menu Builder menu software allows library staff to control the entry points to the various applications. The internet sites offered on our menus include GPO Access, the court's Online Court Assistance Program (OCAP), the court's general website, the Utah Legislature's website, and Pioneer.

All public PCs have virus protection software and employ several methods to address security concerns. Because of their age, the computers are not adequate to meet the technology needs of library users. The PCs are very slow and frequently lock up, requiring repeated rebooting. Library users accustomed to better computers often give up, so the electronic resources we offer are underutilized.

Staff Computers:

Each library staff member has a computer. One runs Windows 98, one runs Windows 2000 and three run Windows XP. The Windows 2000 and XP machines were purchased in late 2004. All computers except the Windows 98 machine are adequate for staff needs.

Printer:

An HP 4050 networked printer serves library staff and public users. This printer is adequate for our current needs.

Internet Connection:

The library accesses the internet via the court's T-1 line. Our telecommunication services are adequate for our needs.

Technology Support:

The law library's general technology needs are served by the Utah Court System's Information Technology (IT) Department. This includes hardware and software support, except as noted below.

The State Library will provide support for Dynix, either directly or in conjunction with Dynix. Westlaw customer support provides Westlaw assistance and Lexis customer support provides Utah Law on Disk assistance.

III. Goals and Time Line

The law library aspires to catch up with the current technology to enhance service to our users. We realize that this process will take time, training, and additional financial resources.

2005

1. Acquire Dynix software to catalog library's collection.
2. Replace public computers with new equipment. These computers will include CD drives, which will provide access to the CDs that come with many law books. Since our materials only circulate to a very small group, these CDs are currently unusable by the majority of our patrons.
3. Acquire 1-2 barcode readers to facilitate barcoding collection.

2006

1. Replace the Windows 98 staff computer.
2. Consider purchasing HeinOnline, a legal periodical database. Unlike Westlaw or Lexis, which provide journal coverage from about 1980 forward, HeinOnline coverage goes back to the very first volume and provides PDF images of the articles.
3. Consider joining OCLC's ILL system to accommodate increased awareness of and demand for this service.
4. Consider purchasing a separate printer for the public workstations, if justified by demand. Research the possibility of a coin- or card-operated system, or networking them to the photocopiers so that library staff spend less time handling money and accounting for it.
5. Upgrade Dynix software as necessary.

2007

1. Add an additional public access computer if usage warrants. Evaluate staff computers and software to ensure they are adequate for their daily work.
2. Upgrade Dynix software as necessary.

IV. Staff and Patron Training

The Utah Court System requires all employees to complete 20 hours of course work annually, and courses offered include computer training. Whenever possible, library staff attend library-specific training to meet this requirement. This can include Westlaw, Lexis, Dynix and CatExpress training.

Library staff help patrons use the programs and websites available on our public computers. The Westlaw and Lexis training staff receive enable them to assist patrons use these programs.

V. Evaluation

It is difficult to predict what technology will be available three years from now, so library staff will re-evaluate this plan annually ensure that it remains realistic and relevant.

VI. Budget

The Utah State Law Library receives its budget from the Utah Court System, which is allocated by the Legislature. The library's budget has been flat for many years, but by employing a combination of judicious cancellations, constant evaluation and balancing of print and electronic resources, publisher discounts, increased revenue from fee services, grants, and an increase in the budget allocation we can support a practical collection and effective services.

2005

1. Dynix seat, including cataloging and circulation modules - \$1500
2. Dynix serials module - \$2500
3. Four public computers, including software - \$3000
4. 1-2 barcode readers - \$250-\$500
5. CatExpress records charge – approximately \$1200
6. Westlaw Public Access program – approximately \$300, after book discounts

2006

1. One staff computer, including software - \$1000
2. HeinOnline - \$4225
3. OCLC ILL subscription - unknown
4. One public printer - \$1500
5. Upgrade Dynix software as necessary – cost borne by the State Library
6. Dynix seat, including catalog and circulation modules - \$2100
7. CatExpress records charge – approximately \$300
8. Westlaw Public Access program - approximately \$300, after book discounts

2007

1. Fifth public computer (if necessary) - \$1000
2. HeinOnline (if purchased previously) - \$4225
3. OCLC ILL subscription (if purchased previously) - unknown
2. Upgrade Dynix software as necessary – cost borne by the State Library
3. Dynix seat, including catalog and circulation modules - \$2100
4. CatExpress records charge – approximately \$100
5. Westlaw Public Access program - approximately \$300, after book discounts